AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs starting on page 1, actual line 2 (numbered line 1) and ending on page 2, actual line 26 (numbered line 28) with the following:

BACKGROUND

The invention relates to a component supplying device ~~provided with a tape reel holder in which a tape reel can be detachably positioned, and a tape supplying and discharging device~~.

A device ~~known from~~ taught by EP-Al-0 918 453 ~~comprises~~ includes a component supplying device and a cutting device positioned below the former and provided with a knife that can be reciprocally moved. Such a component supplying device is used in component placement devices ~~which~~ that are known per se. Components are located in a tape ~~which~~ that is built up, for example, from a carrier tape provided with compartments and a covering tape closing the compartments and thus enclosing the components. The tape wound on a reel is placed in a tape reel holder, whereupon the tape is indexed by the component supplying device until one of the compartments is situated above a component pick-up ~~position. The~~ position (the covering tape ~~has already~~ having already been removed from the carrier ~~tape prior to this.~~ tape). After a component has been removed from the tape by the component placement device, the empty carrier tape is discharged. The carrier tape is then cut into small fragments ~~then by~~ by a cutting device positioned below the component supplying device. This has the advantage that the carrier tape cut into fragments occupies a comparatively small volume.

~~The device~~ Unfortunately, the device taught by EP-A1-0 918 453 has a disadvantage ~~known from the European patent application has the disadvantage, however,~~ that the cutting device and the tape supplying device do not form an integral whole. As a result, tape coming from the component supplying device can only be cut up in those locations where the component placement device is provided with a cutting device.

~~The invention~~ In light of the foregoing, an object of the present invention is ~~has for its object~~ to provide a device in which the disadvantages of the known component supplying device are avoided.

SUMMARY

~~This object is~~ The aforementioned object may be achieved in the device according to the invention in that a cutting device is located in the component supplying device. The integration of the cutting device in the component supplying device renders it possible to cut any tape supplied by the component supplying device into fragments. In addition, any component placement device may be provided with a component supplying device with an integrated cutting device in this manner. It ~~is thus made~~ is, therefore, possible to place components by means of any existing component placement device, whereupon the tape from which the components were ~~taken is~~ taken may be cut into pieces.

~~An embodiment~~ According to an embodiment of the device according to the ~~invention is characterized in that~~ invention, the cutting device ~~comprises~~ may include a knife ~~which~~ that can be displaced by means of a piston ~~which~~ that is reciprocally displaceable in a cylinder. ~~A knife~~ The knife can be driven in a comparatively simple manner by such a piston-cylinder combination. In addition, such a piston-cylinder combination has a comparatively compact construction. This compact construction renders it possible to implement the cutting ~~device also~~ device in comparatively small component supplying devices.

~~A further~~ According to a further embodiment of the device according to the ~~invention is characterized in that~~ invention, the piston-cylinder combination ~~extends~~ may extend at an angle to the displacement direction of the knife, while a transmission ~~is located~~ may be located between the piston-cylinder combination and the knife. The transmission renders it possible to have the piston-cylinder combination extend, for example, substantially horizontally, whereas the knife is displaceable in a vertical direction. ~~The cutting~~ As a result, the cutting device can be constructed in a comparatively compact manner ~~as a result of this~~.

~~An alternative~~ According to an alternative embodiment of the ~~device is that the cylinder is~~ device, the cylinder may be a pneumatic cylinder. An advantage of such a device is that only a limited amount of space is occupied if the pneumatic cylinder is of a compact shape.

~~The invention will be explained in more detail below with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:~~

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only, and are not restrictive of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description, appended claims, and the accompanying exemplary embodiments shown in the drawings, which are briefly described below.

Please insert the following heading on page 2, between actual lines 29 and 30 (numbered lines 31 and 32):

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraphs on page 3, actual lines 1-23 (numbered lines 2-24) with the following:

Fig. 1 shows a component supplying device 1 ~~which~~ that is provided with a frame 2. A tape reel holder 3 is fastened to one side of the frame 2, and a ~~fastening~~ fastener 4 is situated at the other side for detachably fastening the component supplying device to a component placement device (not shown) ~~which~~ that is known per se. A tape supplying and discharging device ~~5 comprising~~ 5, which includes transport ~~rollers 6, 7~~ rollers 6, 7, is located between the ~~fastening~~ fastener 4 and the tape reel holder 3. A component pick-up position 8 is located at the upper side of the frame 2 adjacent the ~~fastening~~ fastener 4. A pipette 11 of a component placement device (not shown) is depicted above the component pick-up position 8. A cutting device 9 connected to the frame 2 is situated in the component supplying device 1 below the tape supplying and discharging device 5. A waste bin 10 is furthermore placed below the component supplying device 1.

A detachable tape reel 12, around which a tape 13 is wound, is present in the tape reel holder 3. The tape 13, which is known per se, ~~comprises~~ includes a carrier tape provided with compartments and a covering tape closing the compartments. Components are situated in the compartments. The tape 13 is transported over the transport rollers 6, 7 by means of geared wheels (not shown).

The cutting device 9 (see Fig. 2) ~~comprises~~ includes two mutually opposed knives 14, 15. The knife 14 is displaceable in and opposite to the direction indicated by arrow P1. The

knife 15 is ~~fixedly~~ positioned substantially fixedly. The cutting device 9 further ~~comprises~~ includes a cylinder 16 ~~whose~~ having one ~~end is~~ end pivoted to the frame 2 by means of a hinge 17. A piston 18 is present in the cylinder 16 and is connected to an end of a link 19 of a transmission. The link 19 is hinged to the frame 2 by means of a hinge 20. The link 19 is ~~fixedly~~ connected substantially fixedly to a second link 21 of the transmission, which second link 21 is hinged to the displaceable knife 14 at an end remote from the hinge 20.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 6-8 with the following:

~~It is obviously~~ Rather than using the piston-cylinder combination, it is also possible to drive the knife 14 ~~not with a piston-cylinder combination but~~ by means of a linear motor, an electric drive possibly in combination with a power accumulator, etc.

Given the disclosure of the present invention, one versed in the art would appreciate that there may be other embodiments and modifications within the scope and spirit of the invention. Accordingly, all modifications attainable by one versed in the art from the present disclosure within the scope and spirit of the present invention are to be included as further embodiments of the present invention. The scope of the present invention is to be defined as set forth in the following claims.